

OLC 69-0209

12 March 1969

**MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD**

**SUBJECT: Briefing of Senator John Stennis on ChiCom Strategic Weapons and Soviet ABM Program**

1. This afternoon I accompanied Mr. Bruce Clarke, Director of Strategic Research, and Mr. Dave Brandwein, Director, FMSAC, to brief Chairman John Stennis and Mr. Ed Braswell, Chief of Staff, of the Senate Armed Services Committee, on the above subjects.
  2. In their initial briefing, Messrs. Clarke and Brandwein followed virtually verbatim the text of statements on these subjects prepared for the Director's 13-14 March briefing of the Defense Subcommittee of House Appropriations Committee.
  3. Senator Stennis expressed particular interest in the scope and pace of the ChiCom ICBM program as estimated by the community over the next several years, and asked that key portions of the briefing on this subject be repeated several times while he and Mr. Braswell made notes. It was explained that estimates regarding ChiCom ICBM initial operational capability, etc., reflected community, and not merely Agency, views.
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5. The Senator confided that he was deeply concerned over the Sentinel debate but personally would follow the lead of the President on this issue.

6. In conclusion the Senator expressed his very warm (and apparently sincere) appreciation for what he described as the best briefing on the subject he had ever received.

**Distribution:**

Original - Subject (via DCI)

1 - Mr. Clarke

1 - Mr. Brandwein

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Legislative Counsel